Suspension of army operations against ULFA

1019. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suspended the army operations launched in Assam against the activists of the ULFA;

(b) whether any talks have been resumed between Government and the ULFA following the suspension operations; and

(c) whether there are any indications for an early settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) Some leaders of ULFA have given assurance to accept, and seek solutions to their problems within, the Constitution of India; give up violence and to deposit their arms after ratification by the Central Council of ULFA. Operations against ULFA were suspeneded to create an atmosphere congenial for talks. Ratification of the decision has not been received, but the Government are hopeful of a satisfactory solution to the problem.

Expenditure on police escorts for VIP's in New Delhi

1020. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of VIPs who were given police escorts in New Delhi during the last year and the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): 862 VIPs were provided police escort during last year. Out of these 862 VIPs, 760 were visiting VIPs. The amount spent thereon was Rs. 3,59,34,229/-.

Muslims fled from Kashmir Valley

1021. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Muslims fled from the valley of Kashmir during the years 1988, 1989, and 1991 and reasons therefor;

(b) whether any relief has been provided to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) Besides migration of over 1,50,000 persons belonging to the minorities in the Kashmir Valley which reportedly started in early 190, there are reports of migration of Muslim families also, due to extortions and continued terrorist violence, 332 Muslims families in Jammu and 62 families in Delhi, who have registered with the authorities as migrants, are being provided relief as available to eligible Kashmiri migrants. Other affected families have not got registered reportedly due to the fear of terrorists who may cause harm to their relations and property in the Valley.

Awards announced on Republic Day

1022. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of awards announced on the Republic Day this year was usually large;

(b) if so, the State-wise distribution of these awards; and

(c) the criteria adopted for selecting persons for the awards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF